

Weekly Status & Information Report: March 12 - 16, 2012

1. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of March 19, 2012:

- City Council meeting, Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium (closed session at 6:00 p.m.)

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise. (City Clerk)

2. Ward 3 Residents - Save the Date - April 2: Residents of Ward 3 are invited to join the City Council on Monday, April 2, for a reception from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Atrium Lobby. A special Ward 3 public comment session will be held at the beginning of the City Council meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m. This is the first in the 2012 series of Ward Nights. Residents who have questions may contact their City Councilmember or Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk at 301-891-7267, jessiec@takomagov.org. (City Clerk)

3. Art Show to Display Youth Projects - TONIGHT: Over the course of eight weeks, Recreation Staff member Miguel Dean and community artist Alice Sims, offered an after-school program called "Arts Alive." Throughout the program, local youth were able to tap into their creative side and now their work is on display. The community is invited to join the artists today for an art exhibit at Takoma Park Community Center. This event will be held on the 2nd floor in the Azalea room starting at 5:00 p.m. The program was in partnership with the Takoma Foundation. (Recreation)

4. Hot Classics Concert - TONIGHT: Washington Musica Viva presents "Hot Classics," the music of Mozart, Brahms and Cheviolr with Raycurt Johnson on the violin, Jennifer Murray on the viola, and Carl Banner on the piano. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Admission Fee. <http://dcmusicaviva.org> (Housing and Community Development)

5. Sidewalk Repairs: The City will begin sidewalk repairs in the Hodges Height's neighborhood. The two streets affected are Holly Avenue and Grant Avenue. Notices have been delivered to the houses on the affected streets. The work is expected to start next week. Marking of the sidewalk sections to be replaced will be done first (you may see spray paint marks), then the City's contractor will begin removal and replacement of the sidewalk sections, perhaps by Wednesday or Thursday next week. The work will continue into the next week. There may be some parking restrictions. (Public Works)

6. New Sidewalk Construction: New sidewalk construction is scheduled to start on Kennewick Avenue next week. The contractor will post areas for no parking during the work. The project should be completed next week. (Public Works)

7. Banned Books Club - March 19: On Monday, March 19, the 'senior' Banned Books Club (for middle and high school students) will meet to discuss King Lear by William Shakespeare. Spaces are limited and registration is required. Register by phone at 301-891-7259 or on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html. (Library)

8. Friends Annual Meeting - March 20: Please join us for the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting this coming Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Our guest speaker will be award winning NPR science reporter Richard Harris. A brief election for Friends Board members will follow, with refreshments provided by the Friends. Any member of the Friends whose dues are current is eligible to vote in the election. All are welcome to attend this event, whether or not they are Friends members. (Library)

9. Public Meeting for Metrobus F4/F6 Line Study - March 22: Metro will host an open public meeting to discuss service issues and potential improvements as part of the Metrobus F4/F6 Line Study. Members of the team will be available to speak about the project and materials will be available in English and Spanish for review. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22, Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.). For more information, see: <http://metrobus-studies.com/F4-F6/F4-F6-Line.htm> (Housing and Community Development)

10. "The City Dark" Screening - March 22: "We are Takoma" takes on a more environmental slant this month with the screenings of two documentaries: "The City Dark" (March 22) and "The Last Mountain" (March 29). "The City Dark" reveals the effects of light pollution and the disappearance of the stars from our lives and the implications of a world increasingly filled with light and devoid of the night sky. The discussion following the film will be led by Dr. Harold Alden Williams, Director of the Montgomery College Planetarium, and StarryTeller Elizabeth Wallace. Screening begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Avenue). Suggested donation \$5. (Housing and Community Development)

11. Teen Job Fair - March 24: On March 24, the teen program will be taking a group of young people to Montgomery Blair High School for the "Let's Get It Started Youth Job Fair." The Youth Job Fair provides Montgomery County youth ages 16-21 with an opportunity to participate in on-site interviews and get information about jobs and career tracks in various industries and/or business. This is an excellent opportunity for the teens to meet face to face with the area's employers who are looking for youth who are ready to work. (Recreation)

12. "H@ndymen" by Harry Stone - Opening Reception March 29: In this, his first show, Harry Stone's purely intuitive approach is original, layered, and fresh - derivative of graffiti, primitively rendered. His work portrays the tension of balancing contracting work, creative output, personal introspection, and social commentary. The exhibit can be viewed in the Atrium Gallery and the Takoma Park Community Center through May 10. Join us at the opening reception next Friday, March 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Details at www.facebook.com/#!/events/199178116854167/ (Housing and Community Development)

13. City Support for Commercial Façade Improvements - Deadline March 31: The City's Façade Easement Program provides

matching funds to business and property owners for physical improvements to building exteriors and their surroundings. The program will provide a dollar for dollar match up to 50% of the overall cost for eligible improvement expenses, up to \$10,000 per storefront. The application deadline is March 31 and applicants are strongly encouraged to contact staff prior to making a submission. The downloadable application packet outlines eligible areas in the city, types of improvements covered in the program, and the review process:

<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/newsfeed/2012%20Facade%20Easement%20Application%20&%20Map.pdf>. For more information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or ErkinO@takomagov.org. (Housing and Community Development)

14. "The Leopard" - April 4: On April 4, the Friends Reading group will discuss "The Leopard" by Guiseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. This novel, about the decline of a ruling family in Sicily as it is forced to contend with revolutionary social change, is considered one of the most important novels in modern Italian literature. All are welcome at Friends Reading Group discussions. (Library)

15. Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 7: In just a few short weeks, the Recreation Department will be hosting its annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 7, at Lee Jordan Field (behind Takoma Park Middle School). The hunt will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. and is for girls and boys ages 2 - 8. This event is one you won't want to miss, so get your baskets ready. For additional information please contact Lew McAllister at 301-891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. (Recreation)

16. First Time Home Buyer Class - April 14: It's not too late to register for the First Time Home Buyer class that will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. A HUD-approved nonprofit housing agency sponsors the program and a certificate is awarded to attendees that can be used to access county and state low interest loan programs. The class is free of charge to Takoma Park residents and \$25 for nonresident. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. (Housing and Community Development)

17. Favorite Poem Reading - May 5: Don't forget to choose a poem to read at the 12th annual Favorite Poem Evening on Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. For information, or to submit the title of your selection for our printed program, contact Ellen at the Library 301-891-7258. (Library)

18. 2012 Homeowners and Renters Property Tax Credit Applications Available: Are you eligible for a tax credit? Homeowners and Renters' Property Tax credit applications are now available for the 2012 tax year. Although the deadline for filing is September 1, filing by May 1 may mean that the credit is applied directly to your July 1 tax bill. The tax credit program is designed to help low or fixed income home owners or renters, by limiting the amount they pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and supporting documentation must be sent to the MD Department of Assessments and Taxation every year. To obtain an application go to www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. (Housing and Community Development)

19. Bike to Work Day Registration Open! Registration is open for Bike to Work Day, happening the morning of May 18 at three 'pit stops' in Takoma Park; in Old Town, at the Crossroads and on Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue. Bike to Work Day is an annual celebration of cycling in the Washington Area and attracts over 11,000 participants. Register today for the free event and the opportunity to win prizes like bikes, messenger bags and other cycling accessories: <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/>. (Housing and Community Development)

20. A Garden Collaboration: Takoma Academy High School students joined the City Garden's Division for a four-day park clean-up this week. The event included 30 students, contributing five hours each day. The luck recipients of their time and attention were Forest Park and Spring Park. Our thanks go to the teacher coordinator Tim Soper and the Takoma Academy as a whole for placing such a priority on community service. (Public Works)

21. Recreation Department Partners With Takoma Academy Students: This week 12 students from Takoma Academy volunteered at the Takoma Park Recreation Department. On Thursday, March 15, the service projects included beautifying the outdoor basketball court, cleaning recreation vehicles, playing table tennis with the seniors, and helping organize equipment. In addition to helping the community center, these students cleaned the beach at Sandy Point, added mulch to Takoma Park Gardens, and helped keep Sligo Creek clean. The Recreation Department would like to thank Brian Moore, Athletic Director at Takoma Academy for organizing this event. (Recreation)

22. Transportation Issues Discussed at "Seniors and Those Who Care for Them" Meeting: A lively discussion of transportation issues took place on Thursday evening at the "Seniors and Those Who Care for Them" meeting. Guest speakers included Abby Levin, Information and Mobility Specialist from the Jewish Council for the Aging, who discussed their Senior Helpline, a wonderful resource for information, not only on transportation programs, but on other programs related to housing, employment, home care and recreation. Additional information is available online at SeniorHelpLine@AccessJCA.org or by calling 301-255-4200 / 301-255-4248. Also present were representatives from Barwood Taxi, who explained their services and provided an answer to the much asked question, "Why can't Barwood pick me up at the Takoma Park Metro stop and take me home?" As noted during the meeting, Barwood is a Montgomery County registered taxi service and they are restricted from picking up anyone in DC, unless a prior reservation has been made. There are stiff fines (\$500) for violations. Additionally, a staff person from the Department of Housing and Community Development gave a summary of transportation improvements being conducted in the city and made note of recommendations made by the seniors who attended the meeting. For further information on future meetings and committees being formed, contact Wolfgangjmergner@att.net. (Housing and Community Development)

23. Teen College Fair: On Saturday, March 10, Takoma Park Teens visited Trinity University for their Smart Choice College Fair. The teens had a chance to get info from over 50 colleges and universities. The Air Force and Army also had representatives there, which a couple of the teens were very interested in. There were financial aid seminars and we also received a tour of the Trinity University Campus. Everyone left the college fair with info and literature. (Recreation)

24. Special Event For Flag Football and Kick Ball: On Wednesday, March 14, Recreation Department staff member Phillo John, organized a special event for youth on the outdoor basketball court. Three trophies, donated by community members, were handed out to participants in an action packed afternoon of fun and music. Over 40 youth came to the event that promoted the upcoming Flag Football and Kick Ball programs. (Recreation)

25. Volunteers Working with Seniors+: On Friday, March 16, two students from Washington Adventist University helped facilitate a birthday celebration for the Seniors 55+ program. Seniors participated in games, dancing, and social time with one another. Ice cream cakes made the party official. (Recreation)

26. Registration is now open! Spring and Summer Recreation Activities: March into spring with new classes and programs offered by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Register today for camps, classes, and programs for all ages. To help with your summer planning, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation (<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation>).(Recreation)

27. Softball in Takoma Park: It's that time of year again. Calling all softball players and teams – please register for the Adult Softball League. This league is coed. All games are played on Sunday mornings. Registration deadline is April 6 – so hurry and don't be late. For information contact Eric Rasch at EricR@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7290. http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/flyers/softball_flyer_2012_color_for_web.pdf (Recreation)

28. Spring Break Camp - It's All Natural: Come explore with us as we attempt to uncover all of nature's little secrets. Camp will run Monday, April 2 - Friday, April 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day. All participants must bring a bag lunch. Resident fee: \$140; Non-Resident fee \$160. Fee includes a trip to Rollingcrest pool and Botanical Gardens. Spaces are filling up fast, register today!! For additional information contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290. (Recreation)

29. Ladies Boot Camp Continues to be Popular!!: Another session of Ladies Boot Camp has begun at Takoma Park Recreation Center. A group of 22 women are continuing their quest to stay fit and get ready for the summer. Fun is being had by all. Space is still available to join this exciting class. For more information contact John Webster at 301-891-7289. (Recreation)

30. Officers in Meetings:

- On March 12, Chief Ricucci attended a budget briefing for Local 400 officials, along with City Manager Matthews, Deputy City Manager Ludlow and Legal Counsel.
- On March 16, Chief Ricucci attended the Leadership Training (International Association of Chiefs of Police – IACP) at the Montgomery County Police Training Academy for Cpl. Malarkey and Sgt. Smith. (Police)

31. Officers in Training:

- On March 12-16, Sgt. Smith and Cpl. Malarkey attended the third and final week of training entitled "Leadership in Police Organizations" hosted by the Montgomery County Police.
- On March 12-16, Sgt. Gilbert and Ms. Dean attended training entitled "Mental Health First Aid (Instructor Class) at the MPCTC Public Safety & Educational Training Center in Sykesville, Maryland.
- On March 13, A/Lt. Frishkorn attended a Taser Instructor Certification course at the Baltimore County Police Department in Timonium, Maryland.
- On March 14-16, Pfc. Magnaye attended training entitled "R.A.D. Basic Physical Defense Instructor Certification Course."
- On March 15-16, Pvt. Ala attended Packet Writer training at the Montgomery County Police Department's Public Safety Training Academy in Rockville, Maryland. (Police)

32. Community Outreach Officer (Pfc. Carla Magnaye):

- On March 11, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye prepared and conducted part III of a four-week safety workshop at the Takoma Park SDA Church on Child Safety.
- On March 12, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye drafted a "junior police academy" brochure. She completed a referral form for a chronic juvenile runaway for community conferencing. She coordinated with the MD/DC Anti-Theft Committee and created a flyer for the upcoming V.I.N. Etching event (April 14 – rain date May 5). She also attended the Safe Routes to School 5K race committee meeting.
- On March 13, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye attended a Triad/SALT regional meeting. She had discussions of various programs that different agencies provide to the senior citizen population. She had a guest speaker on "Bullying/Cyber-bullying" among youth. She also assisted a concerned citizen in reference to an on-going issue with a resident at his condominium complex.
- On March 14, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye visited several apartment buildings in an attempt to renew "Agents for the Property" contacts.
- On March 15, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye conducted a presentation to 2-3 year old classes at the Central Nia Day-care Center on University Boulevard. She met with the recreation department program coordinator about a junior police academy program (five one-day camp sessions in the summer). She visited the recreation manager at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue and spoke about the possibility of incorporating a junior police academy into the center's summer camp. She also assisted Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center (CYOC) in securing a space for their GED prep tests next

week. Due to continued partnership with us, the site manager at CYOC reached out for some assistance after having difficulties getting responses back from certain sites in the City. (Police)

33. Crime Report: The most recent Weekly Crime Report (March 9-15) may be viewed online at http://cathylevy.blogspot.com/2012/03/takoma-park-police-department-weekly_15.html . (Police)

34. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 144 traffic stops, which resulted in citations and two vehicle impounds.

During March 6-13, 2012, the following details were completed:

March 6, 2012

- Ethan Allen Avenue & Manor Circle (violation of official signs) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.

March 7, 2012

- Orchard Avenue at Sligo Mill road (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation and two warnings.
- Takoma Langley Crossroads Area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued 10 State citations and one warning.
- 7600 block of Flower Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued five State citations for speed and one other State citation.
- 7600 block of Flower Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

March 8, 2012

- Flower Avenue & Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations and one warning.
- 7500 block of Maple Avenue (one-way street) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one warning.
- 7600 block of Flower Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations for speed and two other State citations.

March 12, 2012

- 13th Avenue & Erskine Street (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation and three warnings.
- Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- 900 block of East West Highway (passing school bus) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.
- Takoma Langley Crossroads Area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued 10 State citations.
- 7500 block of Carroll Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations for speed and one other State citation.

March 13, 2012

- Erskine Street at 13th Place (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation and one warning.
 - Ethan Allen Avenue & Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.
 - Flower Avenue at Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations.
 - 7600 block of Flower Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three State citations.
 - 7400 block of Carroll Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued seven State citations for speed, four other State citations and one warning.
 - Ethan Allen Avenue at Manor Circle (Failure to obey traffic control device) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- (Police)

35. Traffic Officer Stats (Cpl. Michelle Holmes):

Week of March 9-15, 2012

State Citations issued: 65

City Citations issued: 9

Safety Equipment Repair Orders: 2

Warnings: 2

Warrant Service: 1

Warrants Obtained: 1

Court: 2 hours

(Police)